

## A B S T R A C T

The invention relates to a spacer for putting into place on a tubular element. According to the invention, 5 the spacer comprises firstly a sleeve of high-compressibility cellular material, said sleeve presenting a wide slot extending over its entire length and defining a central passage that is essentially cylindrical, of diameter greater than the nominal diameter of the tubular 10 element, and secondly a sheath of heat-shrink plastics material surrounding the split sleeve at least as far as the end edges thereof. The sheath is partially shrunk on the split sleeve firstly so as to hold said split sleeve in the open state for putting the spacer into place on 15 the tubular element, and secondly so as to be able subsequently to be heat-shrunk to clamp said split sleeve and fix said spacer in position.